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SPECIES AT RISK

A guide to Canada's
species at risk in the
Prairie Provinces

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SPECIES AT RISK

A guide to Canada's
species at risk in the
Prairie Provinces

Copies are available from:

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Prairie and Northern Region
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Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
780-951-8700 or 1-800-263-0595

or

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
408-1800 Hamilton Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 4L2
306-780-5110

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The new federal *Species at Risk Act*



© Gene Fortney

Farmers, ranchers, Aboriginal groups, scientists, and people with an interest in the natural world have noticed and documented the disappearance of certain plants and animals for some time.

The federal *Species at Risk Act*, in full effect since June 1, 2004, is designed to work cooperatively with landowners and provincial governments to protect species at risk and their habitats. Under the *Species at Risk Act*, species that are threatened, endangered and extirpated (extinct in Canada but occur elsewhere), their residences (e.g. nest or den) and their critical habitats receive protection.

The purpose of the *Species at Risk Act* is: 1) to prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct or extirpated; 2) to help recover extirpated, endangered and threatened species, and; 3) to ensure that species of special concern do not become endangered or threatened.

For more information about the Act visit www.sararegistry.gc.ca.

Stewardship and Incentive Programs

The number one priority under the *Species at Risk Act* is voluntary action that people can take to care for species at risk. The Government of Canada is working to provide landowners with information (such as this guide) and resources for conservation projects through the Habitat Stewardship Program. Each year the Habitat Stewardship Program provides \$2 million to conservation organizations to help Prairie landowners with projects that protect species at risk and their habitats.

For example, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority works with landowners to establish cooperative projects that install watering systems and fencing to benefit both species at risk and cattle. In Alberta, Operation Grassland Community helps people implement land use practices that maintain and enhance habitats for species at risk such as the Burrowing Owl and Loggerhead Shrike. Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation assists producers in implementing twice-over rotational grazing on their native pastures.

For more information about the Habitat Stewardship Program, go to: www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca and click on the financial support section.



Categories of species at risk

Species at risk are listed in one of five categories:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| EXTINCT: | a wildlife species that no longer exists. |
| EXTIRPATED: | a wildlife species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere. |
| ENDANGERED: | a wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction. |
| THREATENED: | a wildlife species likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction. |
| SPECIAL CONCERN: | a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats. |

This guide includes threatened and endangered species found in the Prairie provinces. The *Species at Risk Act* also provides protection for extirpated species including: the Greater Prairie-Chicken, the Black-footed Ferret and the Prairie population of Grizzly Bear. There are also numerous species of special concern found in the Prairies; management plans are prepared to conserve these species and if they become threatened or endangered they would also be protected by the Act. For the complete list of species visit www.sararegistry.gc.ca.

How to use this guide

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The purpose of this guide is to help you identify the endangered and threatened species on the prairies listed in the federal *Species at Risk Act*. This publication will be updated periodically when new endangered or threatened species are designated. For an official current list of species visit www.sararegistry.gc.ca.

Photos, accompanied by text, will help you identify the species in the field.

The range maps show the distribution of each species throughout the Prairie provinces so that you can determine at a glance if they might occur in your area.

Some species may also occur in other parts of Canada or in the U.S. but this publication only shows their range within the Prairie provinces.



Swift Fox

Vulpes velox

ENDANGERED

Swift Foxes are about the same size as jack rabbits or large house cats. Their small size and black-tipped tail distinguish them from Red Foxes. Their dens are usually on hills near water bodies, and they roam the open prairie in search of grasshoppers, small mammals and dead animals.

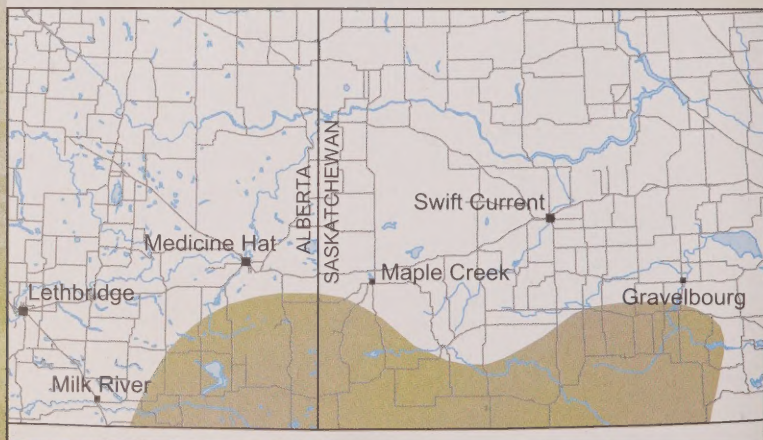
© Lu Carbyn



Height at shoulder: 30-32 cm (12-13 inches); Length (including tail): 77-80 cm (30-32 inches)

Did you know?

- Named for their remarkable speed, this slender member of the dog family can run faster than 60 km/hr.
- Once completely extinct from Canada, they are making a come-back thanks to a successful re-introduction program and on-going support from landowners.



Grey Fox

Urocyon cinereoargenteus

THREATENED

Grey Foxes are distinguished from the common Red Fox by their grizzled grey fur and cinnamon-coloured areas on the neck, sides, and legs, as well as by a prominent black stripe that runs the length of the back to the tip of the tail. Their shorter legs and muzzle makes them appear smaller than Red Foxes but they are actually the same size. They live in forests and marshes.

© Jim Rang

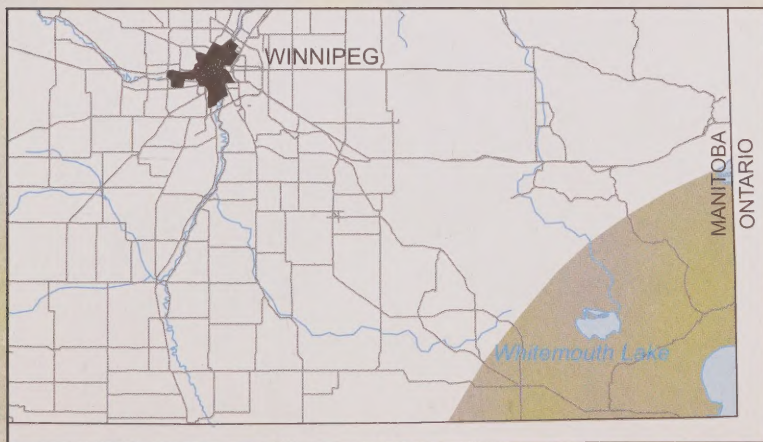


Height at shoulder: 30-40 cm
(12-16 inches); Length (including
tail): 100 cm (39 inches)

Did you know?

- The Grey Fox has the unique habit of climbing trees, scrambling up steep trunks and then jumping from branch to branch.
- It has only been sighted three times in Manitoba since 1957.

Grey Foxes are extremely rare and considered accidental in this area.



Woodland Caribou – Boreal population

Rangifer tarandus caribou

THREATENED

Woodland Caribou are medium-sized members of the deer family, and are larger and darker than Barren-ground and Peary Caribou. They are not migratory, but require a large range with un-fragmented mature to old growth coniferous forests and low levels of disturbance. They eat primarily lichen, as well as sedges and a variety of other vegetation. Both sexes have antlers.

© PhotoDisc, Inc.



Height at shoulder: 1.0–1.2 m (3.3–4 feet);

Length: 1.9–2.2 m (6.2–7.2 feet);

Weight: 110–210 kg (243–463 pounds)

Did you know?

- Populations have declined throughout much of their range.
- Caribou are extremely susceptible to habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation. Habitat changes can make it easier for predators such as wolves to hunt caribou.



Wood Bison

Bison bison athabascæ

THREATENED

Wood Bison are the largest native terrestrial mammals in North America. They are dark brown, have a massive head, a distinct beard, a high square shoulder hump, and curved horns. They are found in northern boreal and aspen forests that are interspersed with wet meadows and depressions. Bison eat mostly grasses and sedges.

© Parks Canada, Photo: W. Lynch



Height at shoulder: 1.6–1.8 m (5.3–6 feet);
Length: 2.4–3.9 m (8–13 feet);
Weight: Males: 642–910 kg
(1415–2006 lb);
Females: 493–567 kg
(1086–1250 lb)

Did you know?

- Almost 200 000 once roamed the north but by the early 1900s their numbers had plummeted to fewer than 300.
- An intensive recovery program has brought their numbers up to 4500 disease-free animals. Two diseases, brucellosis and tuberculosis, remain a major obstacle to further recovery.



Burrowing Owl

Athene cunicularia

ENDANGERED

Larger than a robin and smaller than a pigeon, the long-legged Burrowing Owls are named for their curious habit of building nests in abandoned gopher (ground squirrel) or badger burrows, on grazed grasslands.

© Environment Canada,
Photo: Geoff Holroyd



Length: 23-28 cm (9-11 inches)

Did you know?

- They can co-exist with cattle - they even line their nests with cow dung!
- One family of owls can eat as many as 1500 mice and 10 000 grasshoppers and other insects each summer!
- Over 700 landowners have voluntarily agreed to keep pasture-land for Burrowing Owls, rather than converting it into crop.



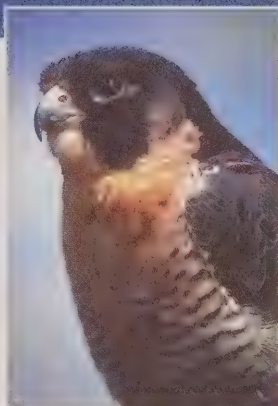
Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus anatum

THREATENED

Peregrine Falcons are dark coloured crow-sized birds of prey with long pointed wings that enable rapid flight. They are larger than Merlins and have more distinctive sideburns than the Prairie Falcon. These sleek raptors usually nest on cliff ledges and buildings and hunt birds, often near wetlands.

© Environment Canada, Photo: Geoff Holroyd



Length: 41-51 cm
(16-20 inches)

Did you know?

- They are the fastest of all raptors and can dive at speeds of up to 300 km/hr.
- Once gone from the Prairies, their numbers are now steadily increasing thanks to an intensive re-introduction program. A ban on the pesticide DDT, which caused their egg-shells to become thin and break, was critical in recovering populations.



Greater Sage-grouse

Centrocercus urophasianus urophasianus

ENDANGERED

Greater Sage-grouse, the largest grouse in Canada, are found on the southernmost prairies where sagebrush grows. Their long pointed tail and black belly differentiate them from other grouse. Their numbers have drastically declined because there are fewer areas with the vegetation cover they need.

© Parks Canada, Photo: W. Lynch



Length of males: 65-75 cm

(25-30 inches)

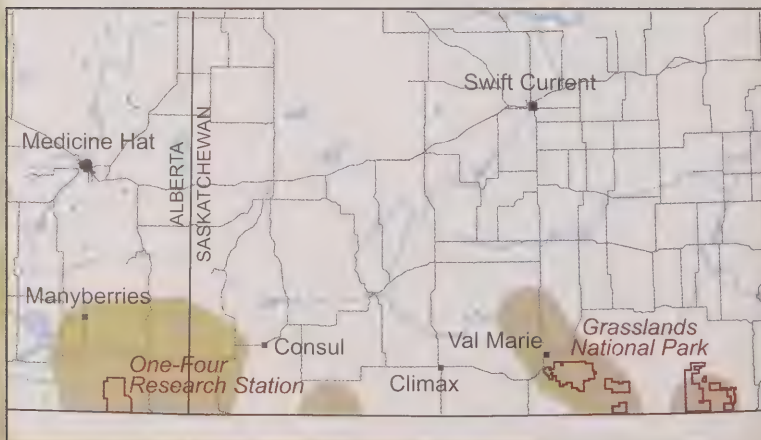
Length of females: 56-58 cm

(22-23 inches)

Did you know?

- In the spring, males strut around on dancing grounds (leks), with their chests puffed and tails fanned out in an attempt to attract females. Despite these efforts, only 15 percent of these show-offs find a mate.
- In winter, they sometimes dig burrows in the snow where the temperature can be up to 23°C warmer than outside!

Birds



Sage Thrasher

Oreoscoptes montanus

ENDANGERED

Sage Thrashers are slightly smaller than robins and are distinguished from the more common Brown Thrashers by their shorter tail and grayish rather than reddish-brown colour. As the name implies, Sage Thrashers prefer areas where sagebrush grows.

© Peter LaTourrette, 2001



Length: 20-23 cm (8-9 inches)

Did you know?

- Both males and females are equally involved in building the nest, sitting on the eggs and caring for the young.
- Although they are common south of the border in areas where sagebrush is abundant, they are extremely rare in Canada.

Sage Thrashers are very rare in this area.



Mountain Plover

Charadrius montanus

ENDANGERED

Mountain Plovers are small shorebirds distinguished from other brown-backed plovers by their all white belly and breast. It has a white forehead with a dark bar above and a black line from the eye to the bill. It does not have a neck-band, distinguishing it from the Piping Plover and Killdeer. They live in flat heavily grazed or burned native grassland.

© Cottonwood Consultants Ltd.,
1981, Photo: Cliff Wallis

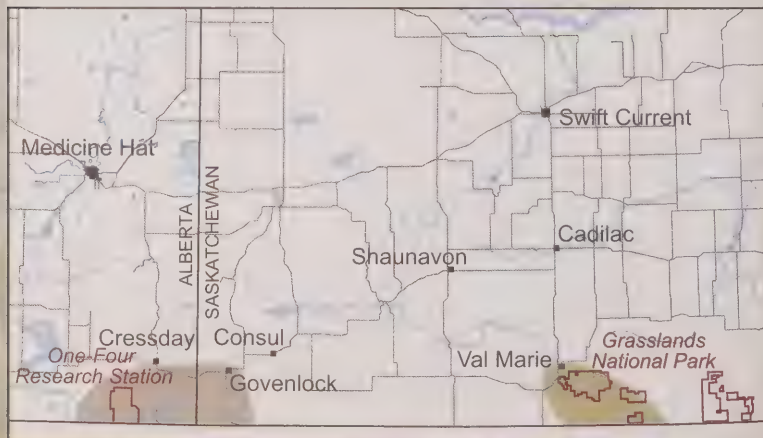


Length: 20-24 cm (8-9 inches)

Did you know?

- The female may mate with more than one male, leaving her first mate to sit on the eggs, while she lays eggs in a second nest.
- There are likely fewer than 25 adult Mountain Plovers in Canada.
- Grazing by cattle or Black-tailed Prairie Dogs is important in maintaining suitable areas for nesting.

Mountain Plovers are extremely rare in this area.



Piping Plover

Charadrius melodus circumcinctus

ENDANGERED



© G. W. Beyersbergen



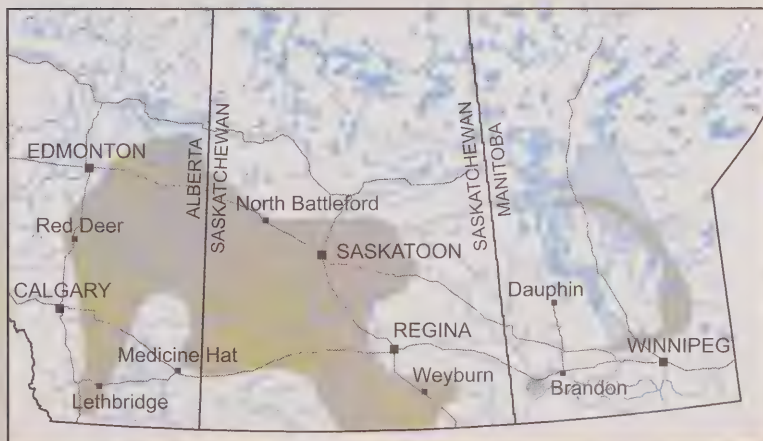
© Environment Canada,
Photo: J. Paul Goossen

Length: 15-19 cm (6-7 inches)

Piping Plovers are small shorebirds with a single neck-band, a orange bill with a black tip and orange legs that differentiate them from similar looking Killdeer that have two neck-bands (see photo). Plovers are found on sparsely vegetated sand or gravel beaches and alkali mud flats where they nest and raise their young.

Did you know?

- Females may desert the brood, leaving males to look after the chicks alone.
- Keeping pets, cattle and vehicles (including ATVs) off nesting beaches increases survival of plovers.



15 Sprague's Pipit

Anthus spragueii

THREATENED

Sprague's Pipits are secretive sparrow-like birds more often heard than seen - the males sing a twittering "Cheeer, Cheeer, Cheeer, Cheeer" while circling at a height of up to 150 m (500 feet) in the air. Then, they drop rapidly to the ground and hide in the grass.

© Bob Gress, 2002



Length: 16-17 cm (6-7 inches)

Did you know?

- They nest on the ground in native grasslands and feed insects to their young.
- They prefer range in good to excellent condition and are rare in cultivated lands, or introduced forage.

Birds



Whooping Crane

Grus americana

ENDANGERED

Measuring an impressive 1.5 metres (5 feet) in height, Whooping Cranes are the tallest birds in North America. These majestic birds are snow white with black-tipped wings, and a red and black head. They nest in shallow wetlands in the northeast corner of Wood Buffalo National Park.

© Environment Canada, Photo: Geoff Holroyd



Height: 1.5 m (5 feet)

Did you know?

- They perform an elaborate dancing ritual where they ruffle their feathers and perform leaps and bows in an attempt to seduce a mate. They usually mate for life and can live to their mid-twenties.
- They face hardships during migration such as loss of wetlands, collisions with powerlines and the occasional accidental shooting.

Arrows indicate migration pathway.



Least Bittern

Ixobrychus exilis

THREATENED

Least Bitterns are smaller than other members of the heron family such as Great Blue Herons and American Bitterns. They prefer marshes that are five hectares (12.5 acres) in size or larger. They use areas densely covered in cattails and bulrushes beside open water. Males have a black back and females a brown back.

© Brian E. Small, 2001

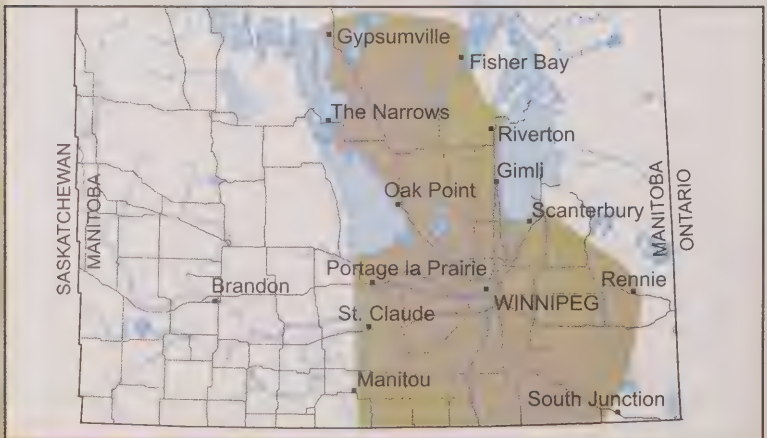


Length: 28-35 cm (11-14 inches)

Did you know?

- They are affected by recreational water activities and the decline in the number and quality of marshes in the prairies.
- They are more often heard giving a soft, low “coo” call, but can occasionally be seen holding a reed-like pose with their bill pointed straight up to blend in with their surroundings.

Least Bitterns are very rare in this area.



Loggerhead Shrike - Eastern/Prairie populations

Lanius ludovicianus migrans/
Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides

ENDANGERED (EASTERN)/ THREATENED (PRAIRIE)

Loggerhead Shrikes are slightly smaller than a robin with a distinctive black mask across their eyes and forehead. They occupy open grassland areas, but require scattered trees or shrubs nearby for nesting and as perches. Loggerhead Shrikes migrate south in winter, and are replaced on the Canadian Prairies by the similar but slightly larger Northern Shrike.

© Henk Kilaan



Length: 23 cm (9 inches)

Did you know?

- These masked hunters use their sharply hooked beak to kill insects or mice and will often impale their prey on thorns or other sharp objects for future use.
- Shrikes often use roadside power lines and fences as hunting perches.
- The prairie and eastern populations are so similar in appearance that identification is usually based on geographic location.



Ross's Gull

Rhodostethia rosea

THREATENED

Ross's Gulls, named after the North Pole explorer John Ross, are small elegant gulls with a distinctive wedge-shaped tail and a unique black collar around the neck. They have a remarkable deep pink hue on their breast during the breeding season. They nest in Nunavut and the Hudson Bay Lowland, near Churchill, Manitoba.

© Parks Canada, Photo: W. Lynch



Length: 34 cm (13.4 inches)

Did you know?

- They are vulnerable to many factors ranging from bad weather to illegal egg collection.
- They are an Arctic species with a circumpolar distribution.



Eskimo Curlew

Numenius borealis

ENDANGERED

Eskimo Curlews are a mottled brownish shorebird with long legs and a long, thin, slightly down-curving bill. They can be confused with their close relatives the Whimbrels but are much smaller (the size of a pigeon). They were last observed in the tundra and woodland transition zones of the Northwest Territories and near Churchill, Manitoba.

© Don Bleitz



Length: 35 cm (13.8 inches)

Did you know?

- Once numbering in the millions in Canada, they were considered a delicacy and were hunted to near-extinction during the 19th century.
- There have been only a few unconfirmed sightings over recent decades.



Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer

Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer

THREATENED

Eastern Yellow-bellied Racers are long and slender snakes with a whip-like tail, an elongated head and smooth lustrous scales. The upper part of their body is bluish-green and their belly is yellow. In Canada, they are found in a few areas of southern Saskatchewan, in open habitats such as grasslands and agricultural areas. They may also occur in extreme southwestern Alberta.

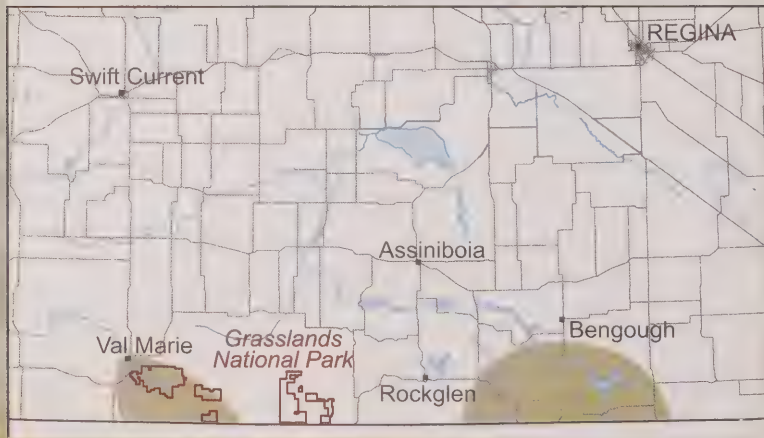
© Parks Canada, Photo: W. Lynch



Length: 51–121 cm (20–48 inches)

Did you know?

- As the name implies, racers are built for speed and are capable of traveling up to 7 km/h for very short distances.
- They return to the same den each year to hibernate through the winter months.



Prairie Skink

Eumeces septentrionalis

ENDANGERED

The Prairie Skink is a cigar-shaped lizard with small legs, an olive to olive-brown back, dark sides and seven light stripes on its back and sides. The tail is bright blue in the young. It inhabits sandy areas with adequate cover, such as native grasses.

© A. B. Sheldon



Length: 5-8.5 cm (2-3.35 inches)

Did you know?

- The Prairie Skink is the only lizard species in Manitoba and one of only six native lizard species in Canada.
- Female Prairie Skinks nest in subterranean burrows or, more typically, under artificial cover such as sheets of tin and old boards.
- It spends more than seven months of the year in hibernation.



Soapweed (Yucca)

Yucca glauca

THREATENED

Soapweed is a large plant with a crown of broad sword-like leaves. When flowering it has a tall stalk topped with creamy white flowers. It thrives in arid regions such as dry coulee slopes.

© Joyce Gould



Height: leaves 20-50 cm
(8-20 inches) and flower stalk
50-100 cm (20-39 inches);
Flowers: early May



Did you know?

- Soapweed can only be pollinated by the Yucca Moth and the moth larva eats only the seeds of Soapweed!
- There are a few introduced populations, such as in Lethbridge and southern Saskatchewan.



Western Blue-flag

Iris missouriensis

THREATENED

The Western Blue-flag resembles garden-variety irises, but the wild species has pale blue or violet flowers and thrives only in meadows and stream banks that are wet in the spring but dry during the summer.

© Joyce Gould



Height: 30-60 cm (12-24 inches);

Flowers: mid-June to early July



Did you know?

- It was traditionally used by Aboriginal people to relieve toothaches. Researchers are looking at possible anticancer properties.
- It may benefit from moderate grazing, because cattle generally avoid this unpalatable plant and graze surrounding plants, which reduces competition.



Small-flowered Sand-verbena

Tripterocalyx micranthus

ENDANGERED

The Small-flowered Sand-verbena (sometimes called Sand-puffs) is highly branched and produces small greenish-white flowers in clusters and pinkish fruit with two or three thin wings. It requires loose active sand of destabilized sand dunes.

© Environment Canada,
Photo: Candace Eichuk

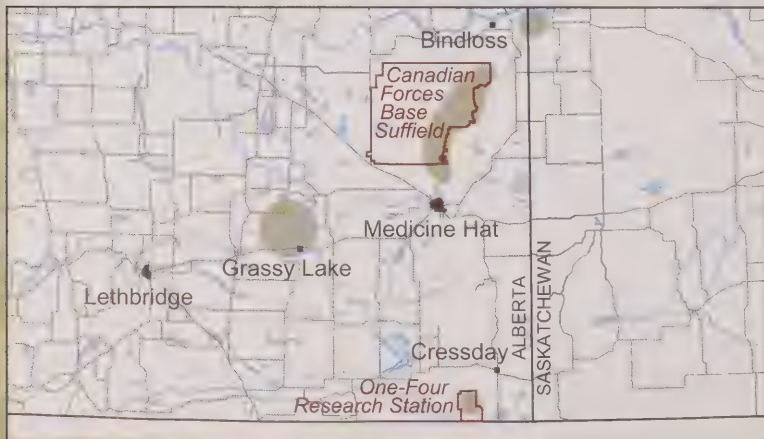


Height: 20-50 cm (8-20 inches);
Flowers: mid-June to fall



Did you know?

- Well-adapted to an arid environment, its rigid stems and thick leaves reduce water loss and the seeds can survive up to three years while waiting for favourable growing conditions.
- Threats include dune stabilization, oil and gas development, and sand and gravel extraction.

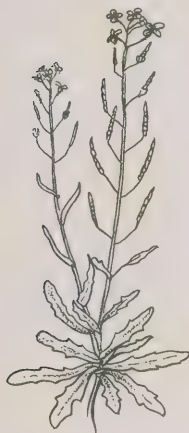


Slender Mouse-ear-cress

Halimolobos virgata

THREATENED

The Slender Mouse-ear-cress can have single or branched stems each ending with several white flowers. Its flattened seed capsules contain many seeds. It grows in flat, open grasslands with sandy soil.



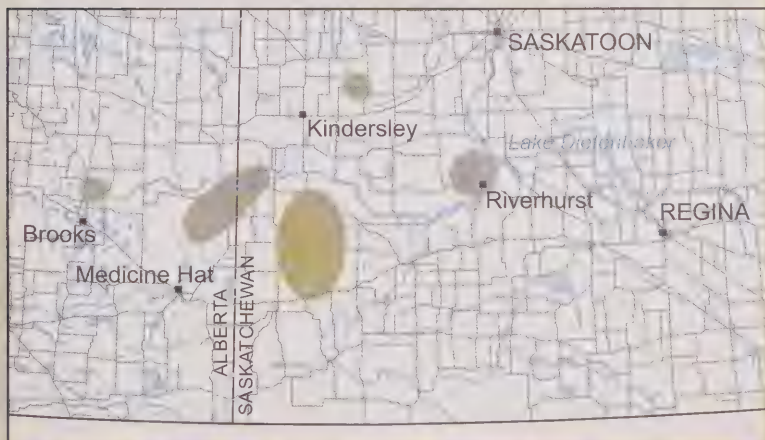
© Bonnie Heidel



Height: 10-35 cm
(4-14 inches)

Did you know?

- It is unable to grow on previously tilled soil.
- It almost always grows with Silver Sagebrush and Plains Pricklypear, which provide it with moisture and wind shelter.



28 Tiny Cryptanthe

Cryptantha minima

ENDANGERED

Tiny Cryptanthe can be easily overlooked. It has miniscule white flowers with a yellow "eye" in the centre and a small leaf at the base of each calyx (structures below the flowers that have bristly hairs and thick, whitish veins). It usually grows in sandy native grassland within river valleys or nearby uplands.

© Charles Schurch Lewallen, 1999

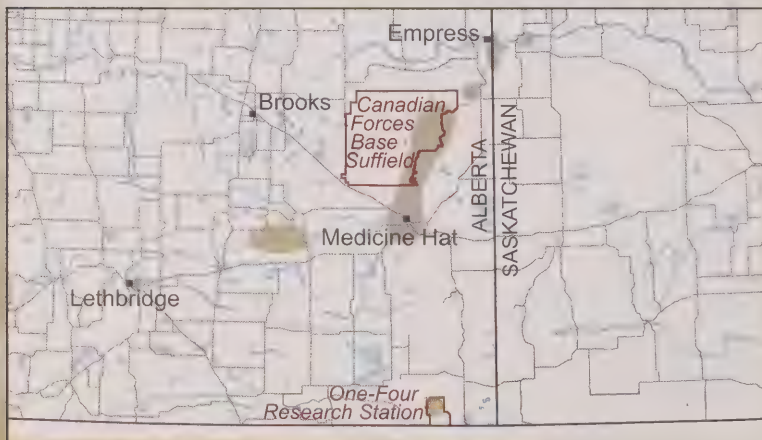


Height: 20 cm (8 inches);
Flowers: June to July



Did you know?

- It grows in areas with natural soil disturbances from wind, water, gravity and animals.
- Much of its suitable habitat has been cultivated or developed.



Western Spiderwort

Tradescantia occidentalis

THREATENED

The Western Spiderwort has slender grass-like stems that can easily be confused with grasses when it is not in flower. The three-petaled flowers range in colour from rose to dark-blue and occasionally white. Flowers are in clusters usually with one flower in each cluster blooming at a time. It is adapted to growing in areas with low soil moisture, such as sand dunes.

© Environment Canada
Photo: Candace Elchuk



Height: 10-50 cm
(4-20 inches);
Flowers: June to July

© Environment Canada
Photo: Renee Franken



After flowering

Did you know?

- When a stem is broken, a sticky, stringy substance is secreted forming a spider web-like structure.
- Threats may include leafy spurge, dune stabilization, and over-grazing.



30 Hairy Prairie-clover

Dalea villosa var. *villosa*

THREATENED

The Hairy Prairie-clover is a member of the pea family that is adapted to growing on sandy hills in grasslands. Its hairy stems and leaves give it a velvety appearance and protect it from moisture loss in the hot sun. Numerous little leaves are crowded onto the stem and the flowers are pinkish-purple.

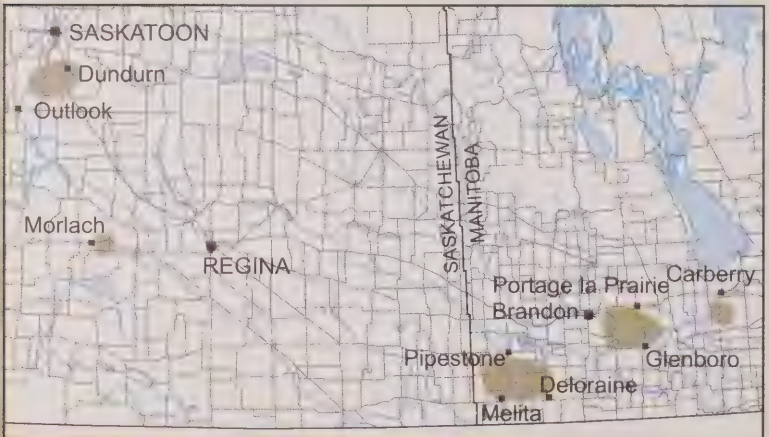
© Manitoba Conservation, Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch



Height: 30-60 cm (12-24 inches)
plant stems sometimes grow along the ground; Flowers: late July to August

Did you know?

- This plant usually grows in areas with drifting sand.

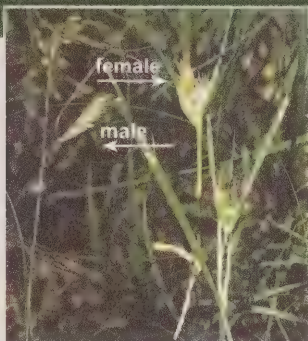


Buffalograss

Buchloe dactyloides

THREATENED

Buffalograss is a short, curly-leaved grass found in native prairie. It can be distinguished from the more common Blue Grama, because it has stolons (above-ground runners like those of strawberries), and separate male and female plants.



© Robert Soreng

Height: male plants reach
6-12 cm (2-5 inches);
Flowers: summer



Did you know?

- It makes excellent ground cover that prevents erosion and provides good food for wildlife and livestock.



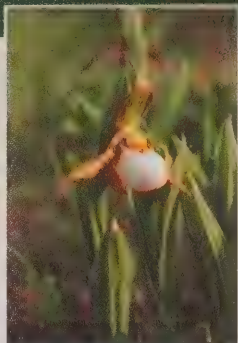
Small White Lady's-slipper

Cypripedium candidum

ENDANGERED

The Small White Lady's-slipper is admired for its delicate white flower that resembles Cinderella's glass slipper. It grows in large clumps and is found in prairie openings, wooded grasslands and marshy areas.

© Manitoba Conservation, Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch

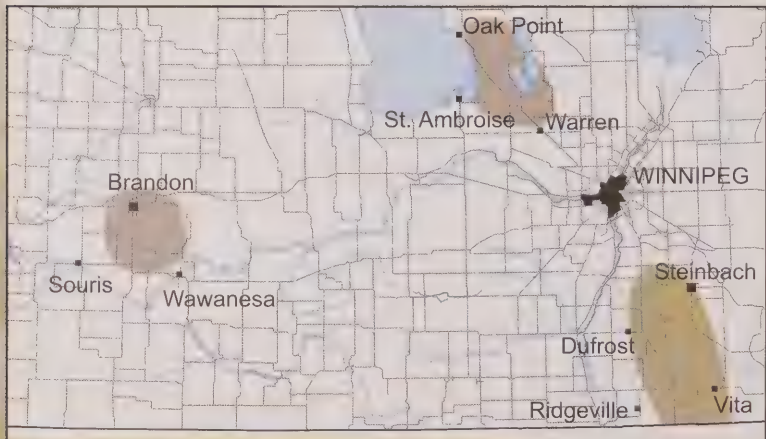


Height: 20-36 cm
(8-14 inches); Flowers:
late May to early June



Did you know?

- It takes about 13 years for a plant to flower!



Western Prairie Fringed Orchid

Platanthera praecleara

ENDANGERED

The Western Prairie Fringed Orchid has large white flowers with deeply fringed petals. It grows on wet, poorly drained, sandy to gravelly soils in the tall-grass prairie.



© Gene Forthney

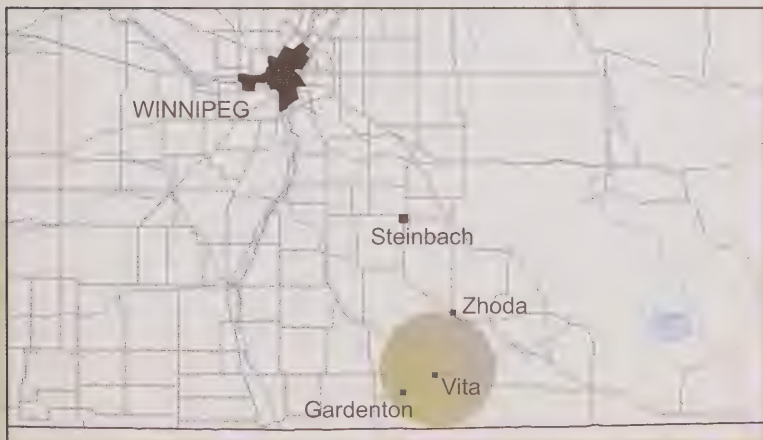


Height: 40-88 cm
(16-35 inches); Flowers: July

Did you know?

- The flower is fragrant at night to attract the moths that pollinate it.
- It is susceptible to overgrazing and spraying of herbicides.

Plants



Western Silvery Aster

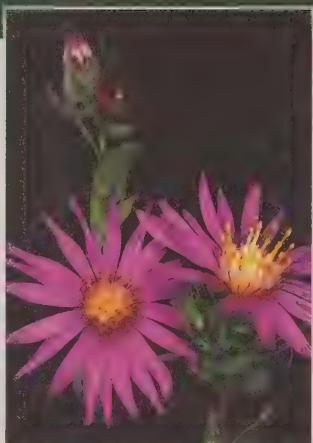
Symphotrichum sericeum

THREATENED

The Western Silvery Aster has daisy-like flowers that come in various shades of bright pink to deep purple. Leaves of this plant are covered with silky hairs, giving it a silvery appearance. They are found in well-drained soil on the prairies.



© Thomas G. Barnes



Height: 30-70 cm (12-28 inches);
Flowers: early August to
mid-September

Did you know?

- Competition with non-native plants and woody plants decreases their survival.



Flooded Jellyskin

Leptogium rivulare

THREATENED

Flooded Jellyskin lichen is characterized by blue-grey lobes with a smooth surface and covered in abundant miniscule brown disks. It is usually found on the bark of leafy trees along the banks of ponds and waterways, and in lowland forests that are flooded every spring. In Manitoba, this lichen was actually found on rocks along a stony lakeshore near Flin Flon, together with other semi-aquatic lichens.

© Environment Canada,
Photo: H. Loney Dickson



Did you know?

- In Manitoba, this lichen was only recently discovered in June 2003.
- Lichens are actually compound organisms consisting of an algae co-existing with a fungus or bacteria.



Haller's Apple Moss

Bartramia halleriana

THREATENED

Like most mosses, Haller's Apple Moss grows in greenish-brown tufts or mounds. It typically grows in crevices, on cliffs and on exposed slopes in the mountains of Jasper National Park. It has little apple-shaped capsules that contain the spores (like seeds).

© Rene Belland



Height: 4-13 cm (2-5 inches)

Did you know?

- It occurs in Europe, Asia, Southern America, Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii.
- The total Canadian population is estimated at less than 250 individuals.



Alkaline Wing-nerved Moss

Pterygoneurum kozlovii

THREATENED

The Alkaline Wing-nerved Moss is a short moss that grows in small patches, sometimes forming widespread intermittent turfs. It usually grows among grasses and sedges near alkaline ponds and sloughs in drier areas. This moss has a bulbous appearance and has small flaps on the upper part of its light green leaves.

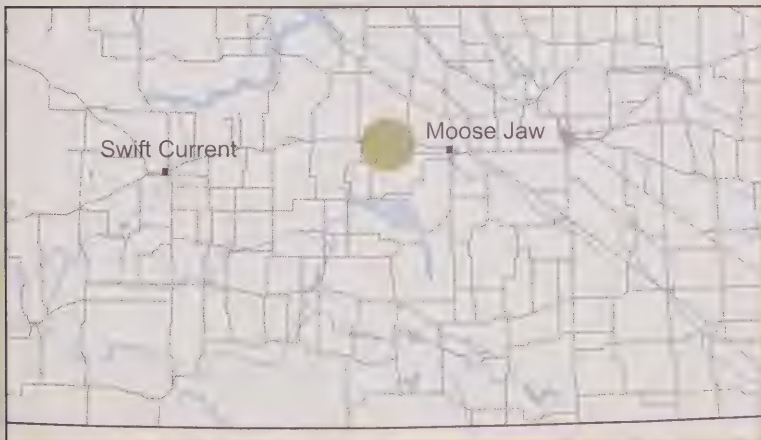
© Terry McIntosh



Height: 2-3 mm (0.08-0.12 inches)

Did you know?

- Globally, this species is considered imperiled or rare, including populations in British Columbia and Saskatchewan.
- The single sighting of this species in Saskatchewan in 1989 has not been confirmed.



Western Silvery Minnow

Hybognathus argyritis

THREATENED

In Canada, Western Silvery Minnows are found in the Milk River. These minnows are silvery-yellow. They are generally found in shallow pools and backwaters of large prairie streams where they eat by scraping bottom "ooze".

© K.J. Scott, 2004



Length: 7-13 cm (3-5 inches)

Did you know?

- They spawn in spring, depositing between 2000 and 6600 eggs.
- Threats to their survival include siltation, changes in water flows and levels, and prolonged drought.



"Eastslope" Sculpin

Cottus sp.

THREATENED

In Canada, "Eastslope" Sculpins are found in cool and clear streams with rocky bottoms in the St. Mary and Milk River watersheds of Alberta. They are small fish with a large head and a heavy body that tapers from the head to the base of the tail. The dorsal and pelvic fins have protective spines.

© Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
Photo: Doug Watkinson



Maximum Length: 114 mm (4.5 inches)

Did you know?

- Sculpins are nocturnal and tend to remain under cover (usually under rocks) during daylight hours.
- Their very restricted area of occurrence has been impacted by habitat loss and degradation from water diversion, conditions that have been exacerbated in recent years by drought.

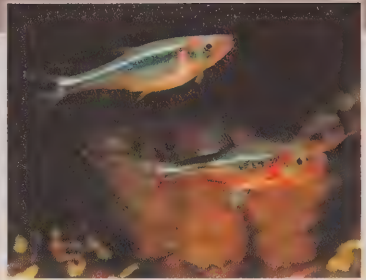


Carmine Shiner

Notropis carminibromus

THREATENED

In the Prairies, Carmine Shiners can be found in the Whitemouth and Birch rivers. They are silvery-coloured with a large mouth and transparent fins. They prefer cool, clear waters free of silt.

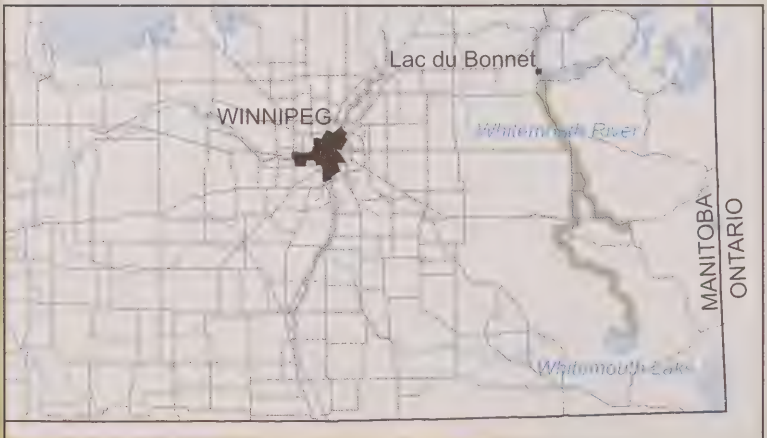


© Konrad P. Schmidt

Length: 7-13 cm (3-5 inches)

Did you know?

- During breeding, the male's head becomes deep red and the female's a rosy red.
- Erosion and murky water threaten their survival.



Banff Springs Snail

Physella johnsoni

ENDANGERED

As the name suggests, Banff Springs Snails live in a handful of hot springs in Banff National Park. They are small and globe-shaped with heavy, uneven growth lines. They are usually dark-reddish and are sometimes faintly striped.



© Parks Canada
Photo: Degner, M. & L.

Length: 5.5–7.5 mm (0.25–0.75 inches);
Width: 4–5.5 mm (0.13–0.25 inches)

Did you know?

- Because there are so few of these snails in the world, any change to their living conditions can have a devastating effect on their survival.
- What makes these snails unique is their ability to thrive in a harsh environment of high temperatures and low oxygen levels.



Mormon Metalmark – Prairie population

Amodemia mormo

THREATENED

The Mormon Metalmark is a small butterfly found in localized areas of southern Saskatchewan. It has dark wings with white and black spots and an orange area on the central forewings. The underside is grey with white spots and again the central part of the forewing is orange.

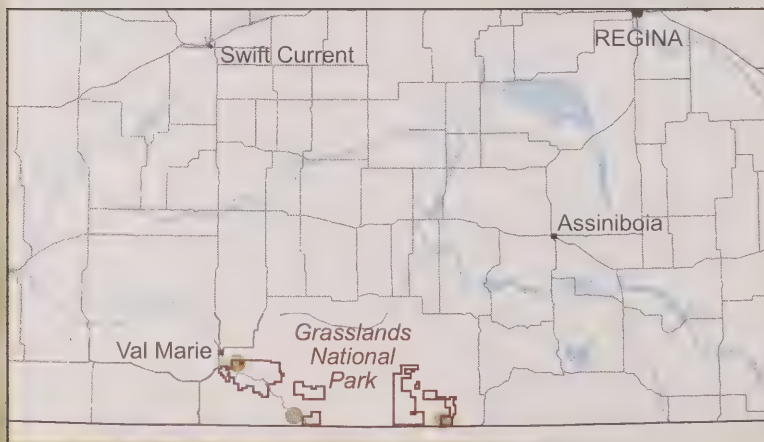
© Saskatchewan Environment
Photo: Jeanette Pepper



Wingspan: 25–35 mm (1–1.5 inches)

Did you know?

- The adult butterfly lives only 10 days and rarely moves more than 50 m.
- It has a close association with wild buckwheat plants, relying on them for nectar.



Yucca Moth

Tegeticula yuccasella

ENDANGERED

The Yucca Moth is a small slender-winged whitish-brown moth most identifiable by its presence on Soapweed (*Yucca*) flowers. In Canada, it only pollinates Soapweed plants and is therefore found in the same localized parts of southern Alberta as Soapweed.

© Olaf Pellmyr



Wingspan: 18-27.5 mm (0.7-1.1 inches)

Did you know?

- Its mouth is specially evolved to pollinate its host, the Soapweed.
- Their decline is linked to browsing of Soapweed by deer, and because of the horticultural collection of Soapweed.



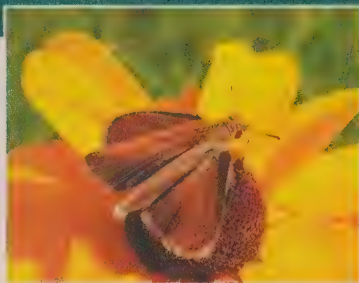
Poweshiek Skipperling

Oarisma poweshiek

THREATENED

Poweshiek Skipperlings are small butterflies with dark brown wings margined with orange on the forewing and with sharply contrasting white veins on the undersides. In Canada, they occur only in wet native tall-grass prairie of a small area of Manitoba.

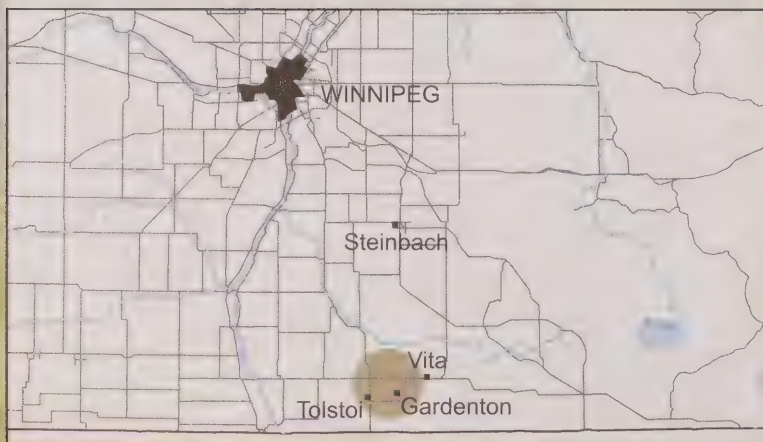
© Mike Reese



24–30 mm (0.95–1.2 inches)

Did you know?

- In Canada, the Poweshiek Skipperling is only found in a 2300-ha area of southeastern Manitoba near Tolstoi and Gardenton.
- This butterfly was first discovered in Iowa and is named after the county it was found in, Poweshiek County.



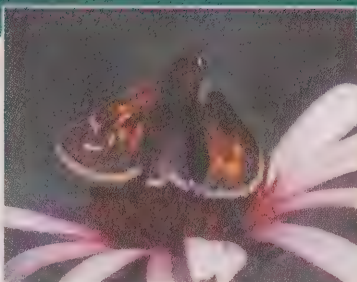
Dakota Skipper

Hesperia dacotae

THREATENED

Male Dakota Skippers are tawny orange with a brownish border on the upper side of the wings and an elongated dark mark on the front wings. The undersides are yellowish orange with paler spots forming a semicircle. Females are similar but have less distinctive buff colouring and faint markings. They occur only in native tall-grass and mixed-grass prairie.

© Robert P. Dana



21-29 mm (0.83-1.14 inches)

Did you know?

- After metamorphosis, the maximum life span for this butterfly is about three weeks.
- This butterfly flies less than one third of a mile during its lifetime.
- In Canada, they occur in only five isolated populations.



Ottoe Skipper

Hesperia ottoe

ENDANGERED

The Ottoe Skipper is a rare butterfly found in localized areas of Manitoba's dry mixed-grass and sand-prairie habitats. The male has yellowish-orange wings with a diffuse brown border and elongated mark on the forewing. The female is dull brown with pale buff markings and one or two whitish spots on the forewing. Males and females both have pale yellowish-orange undersides.

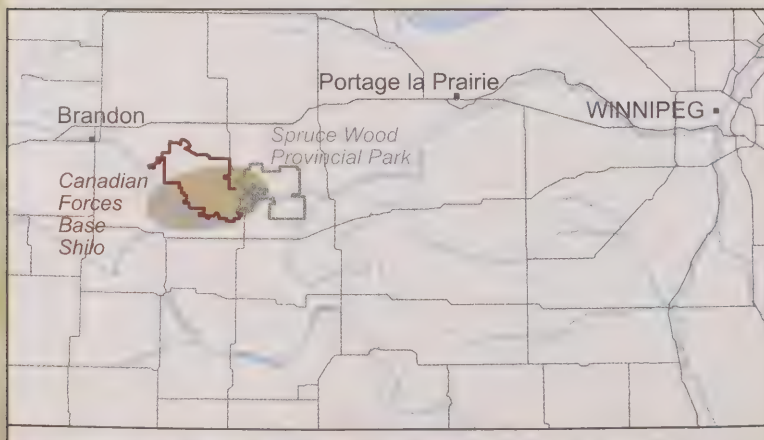
© Robert Dana



Wingspan: 29-35 mm (1.1 to 1.4 inches)

Did you know?

- Much of the Ottoe Skipper's preferred grassland habitat has been degraded or converted to farmland.
- This species was last seen in Spruce Wood Provincial Park in the late 1980s. It may already have disappeared from Canada.



White Flower Moth

Schinia bimatris

ENDANGERED

The White Flower Moth is a relatively small moth with an orange head and wings of pure glossy white. It is found in sand dunes and the only known Canadian record is in the Spruce Woods Provincial Park region of southwestern Manitoba.

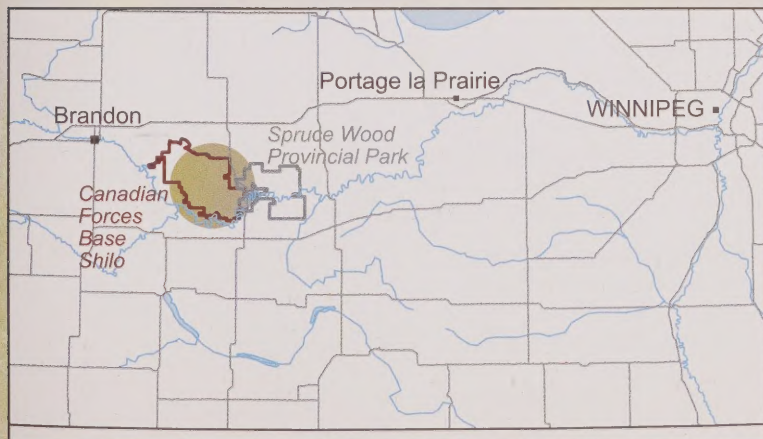
© Vernon Antoine Brou Jr.



Wingspan: 32 mm (1.3 inches)

Did you know?

- Little is known about this nocturnal moth, but it is thought to live in association with the white evening-primrose.
- This moth appears to be restricted to active sand dunes, and thus vegetation growth on sand dunes may pose a threat to this species.



Where to go for more information

Government of Canada

Environment Canada

Canadian Wildlife Service

780-951-8700 or 1-800-263-0595

Information on species at risk www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca

Information on the *Species at Risk Act*

www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration

306-780-5110

www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/biodiversity/species_e.htm

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

204-983-4438

www.dfo.mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/home_e.asp

Parks Canada Agency

204-984-2416

www.pc.gc.ca/nature/eep-sar

Provincial Governments

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

Fish and Wildlife Division

780-427-5185

<http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fw/speciesatrisk/index.html>

Manitoba Conservation

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch

204-945-7465

http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/managing/species_at_risk.html

Saskatchewan Environment

Resource Stewardship Branch

306-787-2314

www.se.gov.sk.ca/ecosystem/speciesatrisk

